

## **1710.02 Surface Water Discharge Permits**

Issued January 1, 1994

**SUBJECT:** Surface Water Discharge Permits.

**APPLICATION:** Executive Branch Departments and Sub-units.

**PURPOSE:** To assure consistent compliance with statutory requirements.

**CONTACT AGENCY:** Department of Natural Resources (DNR) - Surface Water Quality, Permits Section.

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**SUMMARY:** Anyone discharging, or proposing to discharge, waste or wastewater into the surface waters of the State is required by law to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The NPDES program is intended to control direct discharge into the surface waters of the State by imposing effluent limits necessary to meet State and federal water quality standards. The NPDES regulates pollutants discharged directly into waterways from wastewater sources. Indirect dischargers (those who discharge to a municipal treatment facility via a sanitary sewer) are not required to have an NPDES permit. In most cases, discharge to a storm sewer does not go to a municipal treatment facility, and is considered a direct discharge. Discharge to a municipal treatment facility may require a permit from the municipality under the Industrial Pretreatment Program.

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 and 1977 initiated the NPDES permit process to control the discharge of pollutants into surface waters, by imposing effluent limitations to protect the environment. This authority has been delegated to Michigan by the US EPA. In Michigan, authority for NPDES permit issuance rests with the Water Resources Commission (WRC). (Refer to Water Resources Act, Public Act 245 of 1929, as amended).

Applications are to be submitted to the Surface Water Quality Division, Permits Section. The application then proceeds through the standard permit review and development process (See Michigan Guidebook for Surface Water Dischargers).

**APPLICABLE FORMS:** PR-4660, Industrial and Commercial Wastewater Discharge Application; or, for sanitary waste, PR-4856, Municipal Wastewater Discharge Application.

**PROCEDURES:** Contact Surface Water Quality Division, Permits Section for application and instruction to apply for an NPDES permit. The application must be submitted at least 180 days before needing the permit.

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